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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 655  
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 and continued by House Joint Resolution No. 431 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues.

WHEREAS, because women's health issues are of paramount concern to the citizens of Tennessee, the 99th General Assembly established, by means of HJR No. 89, a special joint committee to study this important topic; and

WHEREAS, the committee's important mandate was subsequently extended for two years by House Joint Resolution No. 431 of the 99th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee was appointed and convened in the early fall of 1995, and subsequently held hearings in Nashville and Memphis; and

WHEREAS, as a result of its hard work and investigations, the special joint committee has formulated several general recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the committee has also devised more specific recommendations relative to other women's health issues, including prenatal care, hospital discharge of mothers and newborns, TennCare coverage of high dose chemotherapy for breast cancer, the proposed Center of Excellence for Women's Health, osteoporosis, research in state educational facilities, and domestic violence; and

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WHEREAS, due to the brief amount of time allotted for the committee's work and the many complex facets of women's health issues, the special joint committee has not been afforded ample opportunity to fully consider many areas of concern relative to women's health in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee's mandate should be extended again in order that the committee may further study and make recommendations relative to numerous other women's health issues, including the high rate of suicide for young women and other mental health needs, HIV/AIDS and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, addictive disorders, cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, because of the aforementioned reasons and numerous others, it is imperative to the public safety and welfare that the mandate of the special joint committee should be extended; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 and continued by House Joint Resolution No. 431 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues is hereby continued for a period of two (2) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the membership of the special joint committee shall remain as constituted by HJR No. 89 and HJR No. 431 of the 99th General Assembly; provided that the members are duly elected members of the General Assembly. Vacancies shall be filled by the Speaker of the House or the Speaker of the Senate, as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That areas the special joint committee may continue to study and make recommendations on shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Improving breast cancer and cervical cancer prevention and control;
- (2) The inclusion of women's health problems in biomedical and biobehavioral clinical research studies conducted by state colleges and universities;

(3) Available statistics relative to women's health in Tennessee;

(4) The effect of the TennCare program, and other publicly funded health and social programs, on women's health;

(5) Educational programs for women relative to neonatal care, prenatal care and other aspects of child care, heart disease, AIDS, cancer, lung disease and early detection and intervention procedures for other diseases and medical conditions;

(6) The status of women's health in Tennessee and needed improvements in this area; and

(7) Any other women's health issues that the committee deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the special joint committee, upon the request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred and First General Assembly no later than March 1, 2000, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.